

From: Spraul, Melissa [mailto:mspraul@mwww.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2005 5:50 PM
To: Gwen Strivers
Subject: FWD: BIA comments on California's Goods Movement Action Plan

December 12, 2005

California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency
Via e-mail: gstrivers@bth.ca.gov

Re: California's Goods Movement Action Plan

As the chief executive officer for the Building Industry Association/Greater Los Angeles Ventura Chapter (BIA/GLAV), I am part of an organization that represents more than 500 member companies and thousands of home builders, carpenters, painters and landscapers. BIA/GLAV is at the forefront of the housing issues facing Los Angeles and Ventura counties and is committed creating vibrant communities in our region. We know, firsthand, that the building of new homes also brings new schools, new parks and new roadways. Furthermore, the development of new communities helps generate jobs and revenue that fund important services and support critical infrastructure projects that will keep communities thriving.

Highways in our region have been one of the defining elements leading to the development of new communities. Efficient highways and roadways allow for the quick transporting of building goods and materials, materials that literally lay the foundation for growth and development and keep local communities growing and thriving.

Projects that provide new and improved roads and highways are fundamental.

Interstate 5 is the north-south commercial route linking the Ports of Los Angeles and San Pedro and Port Hueneme. Not only is it integral to the delivery of goods and services to and from Los Angeles and the San Fernando, Santa Clarita and Antelope Valleys, but it connects our region's military facilities and contractors with the rest of the state and is the primary emergency evacuation route for northern Los Angeles County.

As California grows, our highways, roads, airports and railways have become increasingly congested, with little to no transportation improvements to accommodate this growth. The Southern California Association of Governments estimates that Southern California's population will grow by more than six million residents between 2000 and 2020—an increase equal to double the population of Chicago. In the last 30 years alone, our freeway usage has more than doubled, yet Californians are commuting on the same road system built by our grandfathers. In fact, California motorists pay the third heaviest taxes per vehicle in the country and rank last in per capita spending for our highways.

BIA/GLAV supports the Interstate 5 Santa Clarita-Los Angeles Gateway Improvement Project. Transportation and the movement of goods are the lifeblood of California and integral to everyday life for communities throughout our region. This important project will increase capacity, relieving congestion, and improve roadway operations while positively affecting the various local industries that depend on such operations to survive. It will improve the conditions for transporting building goods and materials to Los Angeles and Ventura counties, where new homes and communities are being built to meet the housing demand for the state's growing population.

We respectfully request that the Interstate 5 Santa Clarita-Los Angeles Gateway Improvement Project, which helps meet the Governor's goals in the draft of the Goods Movement Plan, be included among the projects specified in the "Ports to Border" Goods Movement Corridors and Project Inventory.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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